

News

Notes

Hickam remembers attacks – Hickam Air Force Base will hold a special reveille and wreath laying ceremony at the base flag pole to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the attack on Oahu and Hickam Field, Dec. 7 at 7:45 a.m. Hickam attack survivors will be in attendance at the event, which will include an F-15 flyover and a performance by the Air Force Band of the Pacific. Everyone on base is invited to attend the event.

Civilian Personnel Flight closure – Civilian Personal Flight will be closed today from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for an official function. For more information, call 449-0122.

Colts’ cheerleaders – The Indianapolis Colts cheerleaders will be performing Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Freedom Tower mall.

Hawaii Top 3 Association – The next meeting for the Hawaii Top 3 is Wednesday at the Hickam enlisted club. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Maria Lacuesta, 448-8074.

Scholarships offered – The Hickam Officer’s Spouses club is offering scholarships for students attending an accredited 2-4 year college, university, vocational or technical school. Applications are available today at Hickam library, the education center, thrift shop, Airman and Family Readiness Center, Radford High School and the Ka Leo Newsletter. For more information, contact Jeanne Long at Longj005@hawaii.rr.com or call 442-4491.

Pau Hana – The Leeward Young Men’s Christian Association in Waipahu invites military members to their pau hana event, Dec. 12 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The new facility offers expanded childcare
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In this

week’s Kukini



Playtime at
Bellows,
B1

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Hickam Remembers

65th Anniversary

“THE JAPANESE WERE TRYING TO BOMB AND STRAF THE FLAG FROM THE FLAG POLE. THE LAST TIME I SAW IT THAT DAY IT WAS BATTERED AND TORN, BUT STILL WAVING MAJESTICALLY IN THE BREEZE.”

I.W. SOUTHERN
HICKAM FIELD
7 DEC 1941

PEARL HARBOR
ATTACK ON HICKAM FIELD
REMEMBRANCE

DECEMBER 7, 1941

Graphic Illustration by Reid Kagemoto

JPAC reflects on success prepares for new year

By Michael C. Flowers

Brigadier General, USA
Commanding General, Joint POW/MIA
Accounting Command

On behalf of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, I'd like to wish all of the men and women stationed at Hickam Air Force Base a happy holiday season.

At JPAC, the end of the year is the time we use to pause and reflect upon what we've accomplished over the past twelve months and to prepare for the upcoming year. It's the one time of the year when all of our deployed teams return home for a few weeks to spend time recertifying on training requirements and, most importantly, to spend valuable time with family and friends. With so many of our members deployed six months or more a year, this month offers a chance to catch our breath and get ready for the next cycle of search and recovery missions.

I'd like to briefly recap our year and give you a quick snapshot of things to come at JPAC, and I'll close with an invitation for you all to join us on our final arrival ceremony of the year next Friday.

During the last year, our teams had successful investigation and recovery missions in South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Europe, Fiji, Thailand, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Hawaii, Alaska and California. Our scientists also identified over ninety service members from World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and the Cold War. That's over ninety families that now have answers about their loved ones.

“ We’re excited about the year to come. But for now, we are focusing on this special time of year when we’re all together as a family. ”

You may have heard in the news that a few months ago we also made our first-ever identification of an American Dough Boy from World War I. Private Francis Lupo was discovered near Soissons, France a couple of years ago, and was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery with full military honors back in August. Amazingly, Private Lupo's closest living relative is a 73-year-old niece named Rachael Kleisinger who wasn't even born at the time of his death.

Right after the holiday season, our teams head out again for missions in Laos, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, and Palau. In the following months, we also have planned missions to Vietnam, South Korea, China, and Europe to continue our effort to bring home service members missing from past wars. It's shaping up to be a busy year, and I want to assure you that we continue to do whatever it takes to bring home our missing Americans. We will never give up, no matter how long, no matter what it takes to keep the promise that 'no one will be left behind.'

Some of the most exciting things we're

planning for next year are happening right here on Oahu. Next year, we're going to expand the table space in our laboratory so we can work on more cases at one time. This extra space will increase our capacity to make identifications by giving our scientists more room to do their critical work and will provide for an expansion of JPAC's office space.

We're excited about the year to come. But for now, we are focusing on this special time of year when we're all together as a family.

As this year comes to a close, please come join us for the last arrival ceremony of the year. It's slated to take place next Friday, Dec. 8, at 9 a.m. in Hangar 35 on the Hickam AFB flight line. This ceremony provides a chance to pay tribute to the service members recovered from our last missions to Southeast Asia. It is also an occasion to reflect upon the tens of thousands of men and women still missing home from our nation's past wars.

If you've never experienced a JPAC Arrival Ceremony, please consider taking an hour out of your busy schedule to join us. If you can't make it, keep an eye out for future ceremonies and please make an effort to come out and pay your respects when you can.

Let me close by emphasizing how much we appreciate the outstanding support we continue to receive here at Hickam Air Force Base; one of the most beautiful bases in the world. We consider ourselves lucky to be a part of Hickam and we look forward to working with you in 2007.

"Until they are home."

Discipline:The small things are no little matter

Commentary by Maj.

Jeffrey Vires

376th Air Expeditionary Wing
Judge Advocate

Sometimes, in the morning, when it's cold, I'll walk to work with my hands warmly nestled in my pockets. Or I'll be leaving the dorm when it's dark, realize I've forgotten my reflective belt, but don't go back and get it because I work just across the street.

When I was notified I was deploying to a combat zone, and that I'd be receiving hostile fire pay, that caused me some trepidation. Upon arriving at Manas, for the first day or so, I made sure I was very aware of my surroundings. Now, almost half-way through my tour, after the benefit, albeit questionable, of all the jalapeño poppers and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups I can eat, boardwalk sales and karaoke, do I still have the same level of awareness of my surroundings? Probably not.

Does my lack of discipline matter? Will we lose the war on terrorism because I forgot my reflective belt? Does a lack of discipline in small things really matter?

It mattered to one man: Gen. George S. Patton Jr. He had a lot to say about

discipline: "There is only one sort of discipline, perfect discipline."

"If you can't get them to salute when they should salute, and wear the clothes you tell them to wear, how are you going to get them to die for their country? . . . It is absurd to believe that soldiers who cannot be made to wear the proper uniform can be induced to move forward in battle. Officers who fail to perform their duty by correcting small violations and in enforcing proper conduct are incapable of leading.

"You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things. Brave undisciplined men have no chance against the discipline and valor of other men," he said.

Discipline in the small things does matter. If you go to the gym and work out regularly, not only does it benefit your health, but the repetitive nature of your activity mentally instills a healthful attitude. I think it's the same thing practicing daily discipline with the small things.

And if you think the small things don't matter, remember what else General Patton had to say: "Watch what people are cynical about, and one can often discover what they lack."

Make yourself accountable:

World AIDS recognized today

Commentary by Maj. (Dr.)

Vincent Marconi

59th Medical Wing

As we recount the last two and a half decades that the world has witnessed the destructive force of HIV/AIDS, we are reminded of unimaginable pain and suffering, but also of tremendous goodwill and the triumph of the human spirit.

World AIDS Day will be held around the globe today. This year's theme is "Accountability."

We must ask ourselves 'what is my responsibility as a member of a global society?' and 'what can I do to help?'

Since its first description in 1981, HIV has become one of the deadliest epidemics in human history, killing more than 25 million people around the world, including more than 500,000 Americans.

In the U.S., nearly 40,000 people still become infected with HIV every year, and many of these are under the age of 25. This disease does not discriminate; it affects everyone, old and young, rich and poor.

It also has affected our servicemembers and their beneficiaries with more than 1,400 infected in the Air Force alone and nearly 5,000 among all three branches of the military. Nearly half of these individuals have died from their infection, most often in silence.

Through the pain and the loss of so

“ We must ask ourselves ‘what is my responsibility as a member of a global society?’ and ‘what can I do to help?’ ”

many loved ones from this disease, we have experienced incredible displays of courage, compassion and selflessness from those who have been infected and from those who have cared for individuals sick and dying with AIDS.

We also have witnessed a monumental effort by health care people, clinicians, scientists, humanitarian workers and philanthropists to combat this disease by every means available.

To examine the scientific achievements in particular is to appreciate an unprecedented accomplishment of medical research. These achievements were the result of worldwide collaboration and cooperation. These findings permitted the rapid identification of the causative virus (HIV) and also allowed scientists to understand how it causes harm.

Prevention and testing programs were developed which reduced and interrupted

spread from person to person. Twenty nine medications have been developed and proven effective against the HIV and while treatment once required 30 pills a day, now only one pill daily is needed.

However, the fight is far from over. We do not yet have a cure or a vaccine for HIV/AIDS. Prevention remains the only cure for the moment and we still do not do this very well.

Today we reflect on a disease that devastates entire societies, leaving more than 15 million orphans in its wake. These children will grow up without parents to give them affection, teach them values or how to care for others.

Aside from being a destructive force in itself, HIV/AIDS has particularly devastated resource-limited regions of the world, reducing the average life span by 30 years in some countries. It eventually will stabilize governments by eliminating the capacity of entire nations to sustain themselves economically.

How will we reflect upon the next 25 years? Will we say that we halted this disease from eliminating an entire generation in Africa? Will we remind ourselves of how the subcontinent of India was brought to the brink of disaster only to be diverted by a worldwide effort to prevent and treat infections? Or will we bare the burden for so many lost lives that could have been saved?

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community.

I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call.

If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response.

I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hickam.af.mil.



Nail Polish

Nail Polish Standards: Females will not wear shades of nail polish that distinctly contrast with their complexion, that detract from the uniform, or that are extreme. Some examples of extreme colors include, but are not limited to, purple, gold, blue, black, bright colors like fire engine red, and florescent colors. Nail polish will be limited to one color. French manicures are allowed. Nail length will not exceed 1/4 inch past finger tip.

Questions?
Contact your First
Sergeant

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Deadline for copy is noon Thursday for the following Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300 - 500 words in length, and e-mailed to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil.

Crisis Response lines

Hickam Family Support Center
449-0300
Life Skills Support Center
449-0175
Law Enforcement Desk
449-6373
Base Chaplain
449-1754
Military Family Abuse Shelter
533-7125
SARC Hotline
449-7272

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Motorcycle officer dies in accident on base

Compiled from staff reports

Steve Favela, 30, a Honolulu Police Department officer, died at Queen's Medical Center Sunday, after being critically injured in a motorcycle accident while escorting President George Bush's motorcade at Hickam, Nov. 21.

"The 15th Airlift Wing expresses its deepest sympathies to the family of Officer Favela who lost his life in support of the Presidential motorcade," said Col. J.J. Torres, 15th Airlift Wing commander. "Our prayers and thoughts go out to the fine men and women of the Honolulu Police Department and the Favela family."

He is survived by a wife and four children. A memorial fund has been established at Hickam. Members from 15th Security Forces Squadron volunteered to help collect the donations and make one deposit for all of Team Hickam. People interested in donating should stop by the security forces building in the parking lot of the Pacific Air Forces Building and make a cash donation or make a check out to "Friends of Steve Favela."

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Smith, 448-0593 and Lt. Sheila Allen, 448-1170, are the points of contact.

Donations are also being accepted at First



Officer Steve Favela

Hawaiian Bank. The donations will go toward his children.

President George W. Bush was among those expressing condolences to Officer Favela's family.

Bush said in a statement that he and the first lady were "deeply saddened" by the death of Officer Favela.

"Officer Favela risked his life every day to protect the people of his community," the president said in the statement. "In this time of great sadness, we give thanks for his life of service."

Officer Favela was injured Tuesday while escorting the presidential motorcade on a rain-slicked road. He was one of three motorcycle officers who crashed along O'Malley Boulevard.

The other two officers were treated at a hospital and released.

Favela was taken to the hospital with internal injuries and doctors operated on him to control the bleeding. His massive loss of blood spurred his doctors to call for people to donate blood.

HPD is investigating the accident.

Tower lighting



Photo by Senior Airman Erin Smith

Celebrate the start of the holiday season at the tower lighting today at the Freedom Tower Mall. There will be children's entertainment at 4:30 p.m. and the Air Force Band of the Pacific plays at 6 p.m.. Other festivities include youth essay winners, talent contest winners, food booths and a special visit from Santa. For more information, call the Community Center at 449-3354.

Serving a feast



Photo by Senior Airman Erin Smith

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson, 15th Airlift Wing vice-commander, and his wife, Tina, serve roast beef to Airmen, during Thanksgiving day at the dining facility.

JTWC forecast tropical cyclones, storms

By Kirsten Tacker
Kukini Photojournalist

Typhoon hunters reside in our backyard.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center, located at Pearl Harbor Naval Air Station, is made up of the Navy and Air Force that track typhoons in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

The JTWC's area of responsibility encompasses more than 90 percent of the world's tropical cyclone activity across more than 100 million square miles, around the clock.

"We spend more time looking for storms than actually having to warn on them," said Capt. Caroline Bower, 17th Operational Weather Squadron.

The facility is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to monitor the satellite imagery. "We are always looking to make sure we've got everything identified," he said.

By the third week of November the JTWC team was working on storm number 23 of the season.

Each storm is numbered sequentially and typically

the JTWC warn on 75 - 80 storms each year. A tropical cyclone is a general term and further broken down into categories relating to wind intensity.

"There are 88 - 92 storms for the whole planet every year," said Captain Bower. "Typhoon designates intensity. We have tropical depressions, storms, typhoons and super typhoons in the Western Hemisphere."

All typhoons are tropical cyclones, but not all tropical cyclones are typhoons.

"Here on Hawaii it would be called a hurricane, because they are not called typhoons until they cross the international date line," said Lt. Col. Robert Falvey, 17th OWS.

The JTWC team uses an array of data sources and computational resources to monitor, analyze and forecast tropical cyclone formation, development, and movement. These sources include numerous meteorological satellite systems, numerical atmospheric models, sensors, radar data, surface and upper level comprehensive data.

"We issue warnings and track where the storms are going and its intensity," said Colonel Falvey. "How it is changing as far as either strengthening or weakening. We disseminate the information to the field commanders, so they can make resource protection decisions."

A tropical cyclone will take hours to pass, especially if it is big and a well developed storm.

"It may get progressively worse and worse in the course of 12, 18 or 24 hours," said Captain Bower. "All of a sudden it gets really nasty and then really nice if they eye passes over you and it can get really nasty again."

During a tropical cyclone there will be high winds, heavy rains and flooding.

"Sometimes people forget about storm surge, which is a gradual surge of water but not like a tsunami," said Colonel Falvey.

For reference the tropical cyclone formation follows the sun.

"In the summer months we have most of our activity

in the Northern Hemisphere," said Colonel Falvey. "In the summer months are when we have most of the storms down in the Southern Hemisphere. There is a little lag, but primarily whatever hemisphere has the summer is where the most activity is."

For every rule there seems to be an exception and the Western Pacific is the exception.

"The Western Pacific is unique in that there are storms that happen in that basin all year around," said Colonel Falvey. "Where typically in the Southern Hemisphere when its winter down there nothing is going on."

Forecasting weather is unpredictable, but how the JTWC team transmits warnings is done in two different ways.

"We actually disseminate a text bulletin that has all the information as far as position and intensity," said Colonel Falvey. "We also have a website they can visit and get both a text product and a graphic of the storm."

Google JTWC and click

CLASSIFICATION INTENSITY

(sustained surface wind speed)

Tropical Disturbance
Less than 25 knots (29 mph)

Tropical Depression
25-34 knots (29-39 mph)

Tropical Storm
35-63 knots (40-73 mph)

Typhoon
64-128 knots (74-147 mph)

Super Typhoon
129 knots (148 mph) or greater

the first one on the list. The Web site is intended for U.S. government agencies, but it is on the Internet available publicly.

"We issue warnings every six hours specifically for the Northwestern Pacific," said Colonel Falvey. "In the Southern Hemisphere it is only every 12 hours, but for most of our customers which

are in the pacific we update every six hours." A very small team carries out the entire storm monitoring and warning.

"There is actually three total, but two of them are doing the bulk of the work," said Captain Bower. "The third one is responsible for pushing data around."

The JTWC are the only Department of Defense agency like this and when they can they make improvements along the way, while constantly monitoring their vast area of responsibility.

"On a small scale we do some research and technique development, essentially to help improve our warning process'," said Colonel Falvey.

At present two days before the storm happens the JTWC team can get the position of the storm within 100 nautical miles.

"We always want to forecast better," said Captain Bower. "Weather is modeling and trying to forecast chaos. Every decade we earn about 24 hours worth of accuracy."

NOTES, From A1

services, before and after school programs and cardio and group exercise rooms as well as an outdoor six-lane heated swimming pool. for more information call Madalene

Tripler and Hickam Shuttle Bus Changes – The daily shuttle service between Hickam and Tripler Army Medical Center and the Hickam base shuttle bus will be discontinued, today. Customers requiring military taxi service for official use on or after the effective date must call vehicle dispatch at 449-1742 to schedule transportation.

Cookie caper – Volunteers from Team Hickam are needed to help nearly 600 dorm residents feel at home during the holiday season. Homemade cookies can be dropped off at the Daedalian Room of the O’Club on Dec. 8 from 6:30 to 9 a.m. Volunteers are also needed to wrap the cookie care packages. For more information, contact Capt. Collado at 448-6222 or Mrs. Liz Nelsen at 664-0072.

Weight loss group – Individuals looking for support in their weight loss efforts can join a weight loss group. Call 423-3101 to be put on the list. Fifteen people are needed to start the class. The class will be Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For those who may have responded earlier, please do so again as information was lost due to the recent power outages.

Golf tournament – Hickam 5/6 club is sponsoring a golf tournament today. Cost for the tournament, put on by the Hawaii 5/6 Council is \$34 for E1-E4, \$40 for E-5-O-3, \$42 for O-4 and higher. Cost is \$50 for DoD Civilians. A box lunch and rental cart are included in the price. All monies need to be collected by Tuesday. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Kimberly McCormack at 449-2029.

On-base education – Honolulu Community College and Moanalua Community School for adults offers evening classes at Hickam. For more information, contact Sandy Pinell at 421-4350 or Lester Tanji at 837-8466.

Toy donations for military tots – The Air Force Hawaii First Sergeants Association, along with the Hickam Federal Credit Union and Army Air Force Exchange Service are sponsoring the 2006 Operation Warm Heart Soldiers and angels tree campaign. People should stop by the credit union or the Hickam Main Exchange after Thanksgiving to sponsor a child.

Pearl Harbor 65th anniversary events – The Arizona Memorial Museum Association, in conjunction with the National Park Service USS Arizona Memorial and Visitors Center, is conducting a symposium open to the public at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort from Dec. 2-5 and will include lectures from notable historians and survivors, visits to various attack sites on Oahu, etc. For more information on the

symposium, visit: <http://www.arizona-memorial.org> or call 1-888-485-1941.

Pacific Aviation Museum – The Pacific Aviation Museum Grand Opening will take place on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7 at 11:30 a.m. immediately following the Navy and National Park Service ceremony.

The public is invited to the ceremony featuring guest speakers Chuck Yeager and Wally Schirra. The museum occupies the WWII Hangars and Control Tower on Ford Island that still bear the scars as our Nation’s first aviation battlefield. Regular hours following the ceremony

will be 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily. For more information call the Pacific Aviation Museum at 808-690-0169 or visit <http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org/>.

Holiday fun fest – Army morale, welfare and recreation, child and youth services is sponsoring a holiday fun fest at Aliamanu Military Reservation, Dec. 2. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. with a parade on Bougainville Loop. Activities continue at the Aliamanu Youth Center and Physical Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 833-0920.



Minor vehicle accident

An Air Force National Guard member and a retired Air Force dependent reported a minor vehicle accident adjacent to Bldg. 1232, BXtra parking lot. Two active-duty Air Force members reported a minor vehicle accident adjacent to Bldg 1102, Pacific Air Forces building parking lot.

Major POV accident

An active-duty Air Force member reported a major

vehicle accident on O'Malley Blvd. A report was filed.

Damage to private property

An active-duty Air Force dependent reported damage to their vehicle. Damage consisted of a shattered front passenger side window.

A retired Army member reported damage to his vehicle consisting of a dented right rear bumper.

An active-duty Air Force dependent reported their vehicle had been damaged in the drive-way on 4th Street. The damage consisted of a broken driver's side mirror.

An active-duty Air Force member reported damage to their vehicle consisting

of a tennis ball sized indentation above the driver's side rear tail light.

Damage to government property

An Air Force National Guard member reported damage to the key access pad adjacent to Gate 39. The damage consisted of a bent metal post and cracked concrete foundation.

An active-duty Air Force member reported their dormitory window was shattered.

Theft of private property

An active-duty Air Force dependent reported their wallet and purse, containing their DD FM 1173 and DD FM 2AF identification cards, were stolen off base.



Investigation of F-16 crash begins

SOUTHWEST ASIA (AFP) – The interim safety investigation board convened by U.S. Central Command Air Forces has begun its efforts to gather evidence to determine what caused an Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon to crash approximately 20 miles northwest of Baghdad at about 1:35 p.m. Nov. 27.

The single-seat jet was in direct support of extensive coalition ground combat operations when it crashed in an uninhabited field.

Coalition reconnaissance assets and fighter aircraft were overhead when the crash occurred and confirmed that insurgents were in the vicinity of the crash site immediately following the crash.

Accountability key during emergencies

WASHINGTON (AFP) – A new Air Force Instruction places more responsibility for personnel accountability on the shoulders of individual Airmen.

Air Force Instruction 10-218, Personnel Accountability in Conjunction With Natural Disasters or National

Emergencies, published Oct. 31, 2006, details how an Airman should go about contacting his leadership if forced to evacuate after a natural disaster or terrorist event.

In the wake of a natural disaster, a terrorist attack, or any event that could separate an Airman from his or her unit, an Airman is required to use “all mechanisms available” to communicate his whereabouts to his unit control center or base command post. *(Story by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez, Air Force Print News)*

U.S. Airmen help Iraqis take flight again

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq (AFP) – The new Iraqi air force have returned to the sky, performing a variety of missions throughout the country, thanks to training and support from U.S. and coalition advisors.

At Kirkuk Regional AB, American advisors are helping Iraqi military members of Squadron 3 train for their intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission.

“Our mission is to train, advise and assist the Iraqi air force unit at Kirkuk in the development and execution of all aspects of air



Photo by Capt. Vince King Jr.

Maj. Bradley Waters and Senior Airman Stephen Johnson put final touches on a holidays greetings sign the squadron designed for the holidays Nov. 24 at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

power,” said Lt. Col. Greg Zehner, senior advisor for the Coalition Air Force Military Transition Team. “This includes flight operations, aircraft maintenance, base operations support activities and basic levels

of professional military education.

“We also work to develop and enhance a professional military ethic for all Iraqi air force personnel, from the youngest enlisted airman to the senior officers,”

he said. *(Story by Tech. Sgt. Gene Lappe, 506th Air Expeditionary Group)*

Insurance pay refunds to GIs for deceptive sales

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas (AFP) – Life insurance companies are being held accountable for their improper sales practices to military members.

Four companies in the past three months have agreed to a multi-state settlement agreement after Texas Department of Insurance investigators uncovered a pattern of deception to young troops.

Under the agreements, the companies will refund more than \$70 million to more than 93,000 consumers, including about 71,000 servicemembers, according to Texas Department of Insurance news releases.

The first settlement, reached Aug. 3, came after a 20-month investigation by Texas and Georgia, together with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, into the sales practices of three Waco, Texas-based companies: American-Amicable Life Insurance Company of Texas, Pioneer American Insurance Company and Pioneer Security Life

Insurance Company. *(Story by Elaine Wilson, American Forces Press Service)*

Officials to conduct foreign language skills survey

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley recently approved a survey to identify the foreign language capability inherent in the Air Force.

The purpose of the on-line survey is to allow Air Force officials to get a better understanding of the foreign language skills already in the force, so they can better determine the language skills that must be developed for tomorrow's operational missions.

“The Air Force is actively engaged in operations all over the world, the most visible being those supporting the global war on terror,” General Moseley said. “An important lesson we continue to learn is that the ability to speak a foreign language is a critical war-fighting skill. We found that many Airmen have foreign language skills that have not been documented, so we are canvassing the force to more accurately determine our resident foreign language capability.” *(Story by Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez, Air Force Print News)*

Tops in Blue 2006 world tour

Tops in Blue, the Air Force’s Expeditionary Entertainers, take center stage at the Freedom Tower Mall for one performance only Dec. 19. The show’s theme, “What’s Love?”is their own creative blend of soul, country and pop music. Seating begins at 6 p.m. and the show starts at 7. Admission is free and the performance is open to the public. Register for a chance to win a 550-unit calling card from AT&T. For more information, call 449-3354.

Officers’ Club first friday M*A*S*H

The 15th Medical Group salutes Christmas at M*A*S*H during today’s Officers’ Club First Friday. The prescription for fun includes wheelchair races and that infamous game, “Operation.” It’s also the finale evening of the 2006 Club Membership Drive so there will be lots of prizes and giveaways. The Koa Lounge becomes the mobile surgical hospital from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information, call 448-4608.

Rum tasting

Holiday food complements an array of fun and easy-to-make holiday rum cocktails such as daiquiris and Pirate’s Coconuts during the Officers’ Club Rum Tasting Dec. 1 from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. in the Koa Lounge. This is a Members Only event and membership cards are required. For more information, call 448-4608.

Tailgate sale

One man’s treasure might be found in another man’s tailgate. The next tailgate sale is Saturday from 7 to 10 a.m. in the Burger King parking lot. For more information, call 449-2361.

Pinsetter’s Poinsettia Pro Shop Special

Bowl over family and friends with unique gifts from the Bowling Center’s Pro Shop. People can receive 10 percent off a variety of specially selected bags and shoes during December’s pinsetter’s poinsettia special. For more information, call 449-2702.

Food for framing

Donate five food items to the food bank at the arts and crafts center during December

and receive 20 percent off any custom framing order of \$100 or more. For more information, call 449-1568.

Sea Breeze winter hours

The Sea Breeze Restaurant will operate under a revised winter schedule starting today and continuing until Jan. 31. The lunch buffet will be offered from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday only. Ala carte dinner will be served on Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 10:30 p.m. The Sunday Seafood Buffet will be open from 6 to 10 p.m. And the Sand Bar & Grill will operate Wednesday through Friday from 4 to 9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 449-9900.

“Annie” dinner theatre

Meet Daddy Warbucks, a dog named Sandy and lovable Annie, at the Officers’ Club dinner theatre Saturday evening. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m., then participants will board a bus for this Army Community Theatre production. Adult tickets are \$40 with a \$2 Members First Discount available. Tickets for kids ages 3-12 are \$35. For more

information or reservations, call 448-4608.

USO Liberty Belles

Some of the greatest American music ever written and performed emerged during World War II. In the USO spirit, the USO Liberty Belles will perform a family concert Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the enlisted club. This all-ranks event is \$5 and is free for Members. For more information, call 448-2271.

E’ Club notice

There will be no main events offered at the enlisted club on Wednesday. For more information, call 448-2271.

Hickam Harbor Reef Walk

Register by Wednesday for a reef walk of Hickam Harbor Dec. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Explore our many exotic water creatures such as octopus, starfish, sea cucumber and others. Participants must be able to swim without a life jacket. The \$20 fee includes all

needed equipment and two guides. Bring water shoes. For more information, call 449-2215.

Bottom fishing

Learn the lure of bottom fishing and hook a great catch. Register by Wednesday to be part of this Dec. 10 excursion from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The \$45 fee includes two guides, boat transportation, fishing poles and bait. For more information, call 449-2215.

Mamala Bay Golf Course holiday sale

Make a ho-ho-ho-hole in one! Find the perfect gift during the Mamala Bay Golf Course Holiday Sale Thursday through Dec. 24. Save 10 percent on all merchandise in stock over \$20. For more information, call 449-6490.

Card swap

Thursday evening’s Arts and Crafts Center’s Card Swap has a special focus on holiday cards. The coffee will be on

from 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 449-1568.

Drop and shop

People can drop their children, ages 5-12, off at KidSports Dec.16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and hit the malls for holiday shopping while children play during Drop and Shop. \$25 paid registration is required by Dec. 8. For more information, call 448-6611.

Honolulu city lights trolley tour

Enjoy festive holiday ambiance aboard a trolley as it cruises through downtown’s Honolulu city lights.

This two-hour narrated tour leaves from the Information, Tickets and Travel parking lot at 6 p.m. on Dec. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 19. Cost for the trip is \$12 for adults, \$10 for children ages 2-11 and free for infants. Personal trolleys are available on request for group rides.

For more information, call 448-2295.